CALLAN from THAMES

RED KNIGHT, WHITE KNIGHT

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Synopsis

'RED KNIGHT, WHITE KNIGHT'

by

JAMES MITCHELL

ACT I

Meres and the secretary are in the office discussing the new Hunter. When he arrives he turns out to be a rather formal, precise, even irritable man. His first move is to discuss the staff with Meres. Callan, who is still working as a free lance for the Department, arrives on Meres' request and goes for some practice in the shooting gallery. Hunter and Meres discuss Callan and, much against his will, Hunter agrees to see him though Callan's general air of independence is not one that appeals to him. Callan comes in and is immediately insolent to the new Hunter, partly because he is surprised not to see the old familiar face, and partly because Meres had given him no warning. After a lengthy, rather tense meeting Callan realises that he, whether he likes it or not, is now reinstated. It is arranged that Hunter, Meres and Callan should go to the airport the following morning to meet an important defector arriving from Moscow, Bunin. Meres and Callan discuss Hunter and are both of them rather uncertain of him. Callan, still thinking as a free lance, arranges that Lonely should also go to the airport and should follow anyone who comes in with Bunin. This he does as a safeguard because he believes the new Hunter to be inexperienced and even inept. At the airport Bunin arrives and is immediately spirited away by the customs officials into a back room. While Hunter, Callan and Meres interrogate him, Lonely follows Goncharov, another Russian who arrived unobtrusively with Bunin. Bunin is taken to the Department's country house where Hunter hopes to discuss what secret information he has before final arrangements are made for the granting of political asylum. There Bunin admits to being a fake.

ACT II

Bunin says that although he wants to defect, an even more important Russian official, Mirsky, also wants to come over but will do so only if he is allowed to defect to the top British agent in Russia. His reason being purely one of safety. He thinks that the British, in order to protect their own man, will make doubly sure that any operation involving him will be carried out with the greatest possible efficiency. Hunter returns to London to consult the Foreign Secretary leaving Bunin with Callan in the country house. Bunin and Callan, who have known each other as enemies for some years, spend a taught night together during which Callan makes it perfectly clear that he does not believe Bunin's story. Hunter calls in a Russian

specialist from the Foreign Office, Hanson, to get his opinion on Bunin's information. When Bunin returns from the country he asks Hunter if he can have a press conference. The object being to take suspicion of connivance off Mirsky in Russia since, as part of their plan, Mirsky has been criticizing Bunin for some time. Although this is unorthodox Hunter, interested in playing along with Bunin, agrees. At home Callan hears from Lonely that Bunin had a companion who has been spending a lot of time in Fleet Street and has now gone to a press conference. Callan immediatley reports to Hunter who, annoyed with Callan for using outside help, sends him to pick up both the Russian and Lonely. Bunin is sent back to the country by Hunter with a trainee agent Truman. A moment after they have gone Hanson comes in to say that some of the information Bunin has given him is phoney. Hunter, immediately alerted, tries to delay Bunin's departure only to find it is too late.

ACT III

Bunin kicks dead leaves over Truman's body and walks away. Callan reports to Hunter that he has located the second Russian and is instructed to bring him in. Meres is told to find Bunin. Callan having learnt Goncharov's address from Fleet Street contacts goes there to find a surprised Lonely. He tells Lonely to go into the house where Goncharov is staying and knock on his door. Then to leave quickly. Meantime Callan breaks into Goncharov's room through the window and knocks him out while he is answering the door to Lonely. Meres finds Truman's body and reports to Hunter. Callan returns with Goncharov. Hunter decides that the only way to get Bunin is to stand out in the open and wait for him; so they all return to the country house and spend a tense night waiting for him. After several alarms, and when the tension seems past, Hunter decides to return to London and sends for his car. He tells Callan to remain for another day just in case Bunin appears and then leaves the house with Meres. Callan watches as they go to the car; sees the driver gun in hand; recognises Bunin fires and kills him.

((ENDS))

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CAST LIST - 'RED KNIGHT, WHITE KNIGHT'

CALLAN	EDWARD WOODWARD
HUNTER	MICHAEL GOODLIFFE
MERES	ANTHONY VALENTINE
LONELY	RUSSELL HUNTER
BUNIN	DUNCAN LAMONT
HUNTER'S SECRETARY	LISA LONGDON
HANSON	JOHN SAVIDENT
GONCHAROV	GEORGE GHENT
CUSTOMS OFFICER	JON CROFT
TRUMAN	DOUGLAS FIELDING

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